

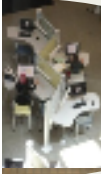


WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEEK
UNDERSTANDING AS A WRITER?

○ Issue 2

○ Volume 2

○ 2009



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OUR NEXT MEETING IS
DECEMBER 12TH
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER
CREATED BY ALYSSA FREY

WNY Young Writers' *studio*

SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

A Note from Mrs. Stockman

I remember the very first novel that I ever wrote. It was composed out of desperation. At the time, I found myself fresh out of library books and our television was in for repairs. This was before the dawn of the Nintendo DS, the iPod, or social networking sites. I lived in the middle of nowhere, and my parents refused to allow me a phone of my own. In those days, I wrote stories for my own entertainment. I was the only audience that ever read my work, and I felt pretty happy with the writing that I produced.

Shortly after this, I decided that I wanted to become A WRITER. Now, becoming A WRITER means different things to different people, but most people agree that it involves sharing our work with a larger audience. So, this is what I did. I was heartbroken to learn that the members of this audience didn't like my writing as much as I did. This was a rude but **very important** awakening for me.

Becoming A WRITER has everything to do with seeking understanding. Rather than diving right into the work of drafting, good writers READ a great deal. They study the work of the authors they love, and they often mimic their styles. This helps them grow as writers. They also consider the needs of their audience when they write, and they work hard to produce pieces that will entertain them. On December 12th, we will be exploring what it means to seek understanding as a writer and establishing strategies that will help us practice do this well. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you!



SUBMIT YOUR WORK

If you would like to see your work included in the next issue of the WNY Young Writers' Studio newsletter, please submit your piece via email to stockmanangela@gmail.com. We print all forms of writing, but space is limited. Please feel free to bring pieces to Studio for peer review and editing help! The deadline for inclusion in the January newsletter is January 15th.

I'm looking forward to publishing your work right here in our community newsletter!!

See You in December!



Next Session:

**Saturday
December 12th**

**Grades 6-8
9-11am**

**Grades 2-5
12-2pm**

**Grades 9-12
2:30-4:30**

Session Focus:

Before we write, what should we seek to understand?

How does genre affect the way we organize our work?

Strategies for drafting
Digital Storytelling:
drafting (grades 2-6)

**SEEKING UNDERSTANDING
AS A WRITER MEANS**

Defining what we need to KNOW about our topic, characters, plot, and setting before we begin writing.

Researching before and while we are writing

Deciding who our audience is and how we can write in ways that will be meaningful to them

Learning more about what it means to be a writer and what it takes to produce great writing

Knowing we never have all of the answers that we need

The Importance of Seeking Understanding

A Note from Alyssa Frey

As a writer, I understand the time it takes to write in any form – whether it be poetry, short stories, or lengthy novels. However, one thing I’ve learned over the years is that the most important thing about writing is the research you do previous to the writing. If you don’t know what a poem is, how are you supposed to write it? If you don’t know how to create dialogue, how will your characters speak? If you don’t know what the Holocaust is, how are you supposed to write realistic fiction about it? Before you write it, you must *understand* it. The understanding will come from reading other poems, researching how to write dialogue, or reading information about the Holocaust. Even if it takes extra time, it’s worth it – your piece of writing will be much better off in the end if you make the time to understand what it is you’re really doing.

**Angela Stockman, Director
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Books That Help Us Understand Our Experiences

Recommended by Studio intern, Alyssa Frey

Picture Books

Oh, The Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss: A book read at many high school graduations, this book is very easy to read and will be cherished as a storybook of understanding how life works.

The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper: A classic novel of belief, The Little Engine that Could is a story of understanding that we can do anything if we set our minds to it.

Chapter Books

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White: This book helps kids understand that we are all different.

The BFG by Roald Dahl: The BFG lets kids be able to understand the power of dreams.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech: This novel will help kids to understand the importance of family.

Books for Readers Twelve and Older

Paper Towns by John Green: Centered around two teens, this book is about understanding how people differ before and after you truly get to know them.

So Hard To Say by Alex Sanchez: This novel is about a boy who is trying to understand high school and fitting in.*

Go Ask Alice by Anonymous: Focused on a girl in her early teens, the novel Go Ask Alice portrays a young woman who struggles to understand her family's love for her and the consequences of stumbling ignorantly into a world of substance abuse. *

*Mature Themes